



**International Approvals**

In an increasingly competitive global market, the burden of national compliance schemes can be heavy.

Manufacturers need the assurance that certification of their products will be completed not only on time and at an agreed cost, but also with the minimum of unnecessary delay.

Time to market is important and delays obtaining certification in key markets are expensive.

Sira can help by providing testing and assessment at our Hazardous Area Centre for many of the world's key markets.

**One Point Contact for International Compliance**

Wherever your organisation is based, Sira can provide a fast and effective route into many international marketplaces. Providing the quickest, most cost-effective route to certification, Sira has recognition agreements with many Nationally Recognised Testing Laboratories (NRTLs).

These relationships enable Sira to carry out all tests and assessments required to meet the standards set by particular overseas national bodies.

Depending upon which additional assessment to international standards you require, the cost and timescale associated with this extra work can be quite minimal. At present, Sira holds recognition agreements with the following NRTLs:

<b>FM GLOBAL</b>	USA
<b>UL</b>	USA
<b>CSA</b>	USA & Canada
<b>NEPSI</b>	China
<b>CQST</b>	China
<b>TIIS</b>	Japan
<b>SAEx</b>	South Africa
<b>Testsafe</b>	Australia
<b>Simtars</b>	Australia
<b>ITACS</b>	Australia

Sira will actively seek to set up further recognition agreements with other national certification bodies as our customers request these.



**Accredited Test and Assessment**

Where agreements are not in place Sira will test and assess clients' equipment to national standards in our UKAS accredited laboratories.

This accredited test and assessment data can then be used in support of certification when the client has applied directly to those national bodies. For many of our customers this has reduced much of the local testing and assessment required to demonstrate conformity to these bodies.



**Early Application Reduces Costs and Timescales**

Should you wish to have your product tested and certified to more than one standard, Sira recommends that you inform us of this requirement early on in the application process.

By requesting international certification at the same time as your European certification, there are significant savings in both cost and timescale.

Depending on the specific certification you require, there may be some additional testing and assessment involved, and undertaking this concurrently with that for European certification can reduce the overall work we have to do.



### The Process Explained

The procedure for acquiring this additional international certification or listing begins when your organisation (or your appointed representative) sends a completed application form to Sira.

Upon receipt of the application and any additional necessary information (e.g. drawings), we will produce either a budgetary estimate or fixed-price quotation (depending upon your requirements) giving an outline of the work, cost and timescale for the markets you require.

Upon acceptance of our fixed price quotation, Sira will carry out all tests required by the relevant national standards. After completion of all necessary tests, Sira will then send a detailed, technical report to the appropriate NRTL.

Assuming that your product and quality system comply with that body's standards, the product will then achieve successful listing or certification in that body's geographical region.

In most situations, periodic surveillance of the manufacturing site will be carried out, usually by the appropriate testing laboratory.

### The IECEx Certification Scheme

This is the future route to global compliance certification and equipment assessed by Sira is already certified and being sold in the world-wide marketplace.

The objective of the IECEx scheme is world-wide acceptance of a single standard, a single certificate and a single mark. The scheme enables manufacturers to obtain certificates of conformity, which are accepted in all participating countries.

The scheme facilitates international trade in electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres and eliminates the need for multiple certification.

Sira was one of the first certification bodies to be accepted in the scheme. Sira is an accepted certification body (ACB) and test laboratory (ExTL) in the scheme, which allows Sira to issue an IECEx Ex Test Report (ExTR).

This report, based on tests and assessments to the relevant IEC standards, can be presented to an ACB in another participating country to facilitate the process of national certification.

**For more information about the IECEx Scheme, log onto [www.siracertification.com](http://www.siracertification.com)**

## Helping North American Manufacturers Sell their Products in Europe

Sira has many years of experience dealing with manufacturers and organisations located throughout the world. Approximately 40% of all our certificates are issued to clients outside the UK.

A European certificate from Sira is meaningful to your customers because it is issued from a highly credible source.

Your customers will recognise our logo and it will add value to your product. Their customers will associate the Sira name with a quality, conforming product, and many specify Sira as the certification body of choice for hazardous area equipment. We are known as a certification body who are thorough and don't cut corners.





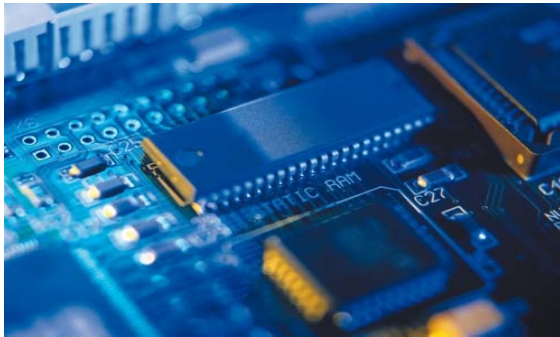
In bringing your product to us you will be dealing with people who understand your processes and your business needs and will therefore get added value for the transaction. Sira will work with you to help exploit value from your certification.

### **Sira Accepts Data from North American Approvals Bodies**

If you are an equipment manufacturer based in North America, or you have hazardous area equipment assessed for listing by one of the North American approvals bodies Sira can help you demonstrate compliance in Europe.

Sira has set up agreements with NRTLs to ensure a fast route to listing and certification. Sira is able to recognise the listing reports generated by **FM Global**, **UL** and **CSA** for any existing approved product.

This recognition, whilst not automatically ensuring full certification, allows previous test results to be used in support of obtaining European certification.



For new products these bodies may be able to include tests to satisfy European requirements as they undertake your listing work, reducing still further the cost of obtaining European certification. To obtain the best value from European certification make sure you talk to Sira before proceeding.

Sira will carry out our own periodic surveillance. Sira's auditors and technical assessors will bring their experience to add value to the process and ensure that your audit is carried out as quickly and efficiently as possible whilst keeping the level of paperwork checking within what is essential.

### **Sira Provides Local Assistance**

Sira regularly holds seminars and legislation update briefings. If you feel it would be beneficial, one of our engineers will be happy to visit your company and discuss your certification needs. Alternatively, if you are available to visit England, Sira offers the facility of a free meeting to discuss your requirements in detail with our certification engineers.

To enable projects to be completed as quickly as possible and to ensure time to market is minimised, our engineers will visit your premises at a time of your choosing and normally be able to effect testing within a few days. We are able to fit in with your shift patterns and production schedule in order to minimise disruption. By arrangement we can test and assess equipment anywhere in the world.

An added advantage of having our staff on-site is that the contribution from engineers who specialise in a particular protection concept can assist in getting the best scope of certification for your equipment.

Our experience in dealing with over 250 North American manufacturing companies means that we know what you want and need to enable your company to succeed in national and foreign markets.

In addition, Sira employs auditors based in the United States, thereby minimising costs and lead-time to complete any required quality audits. They know and understand your way of working and will put that local knowledge and experience to good effect.

### **More Information?**

If you would like to discuss the certification process in more detail, to enquire how you can get your product into the global market or to receive a copy of our application form, please contact Sira:

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1244 670 900

**Email:** [info@siracertification.com](mailto:info@siracertification.com)

**Web:** [www.siracertification.com](http://www.siracertification.com)